GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2125
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
TRIFED
Pathak Shri Brajesh;Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of works proposed to be undertaken by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. During the current financial year State-wise particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the TRIFED has provided any assistance for the sale of products manufactured by the tribal people during the last three years till date;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide remunerative prices to the tribal people for their products?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) The details are at Annexure-I

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. TRIFED has sold the manufactured products of the tribal artisans through TRIBES Shop. The year-wise sales figures are given below: -

Financial Year	Sales made (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-02	24.21
2002-03	27.59
2003-04	39.75

However, the State-wise figures are not maintained.

(d) As already stated above, TRIFED has shifted its focus from direct trading to market development as per its new Bye-Laws. However, procurement activities are continued to be looked after by TRIFED`s State level Member Organisations namely Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations and Forest Development Corporations as per their mandate who are supposed to ensure remunerative prices to the tribal people for their products.

Annexure -I

STATEMENT TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2125 FOR 14.12.2004 REGARDING TRIFED

As per the Bye-laws of TRIFED, the main objective of TRIFED is to serve the interest of its members in more than one State for the social and economic betterment of its members by conducting its affairs in professional, democratic and autonomous manner through self help and mutual cooperation for undertaking marketing development of the tribal products.

The State Government organisation(s) involved in the upliftment of the tribals of Jammu & Kashmir have neither approached TRIFED to become a member of TRIFED nor have they submitted any project related to upliftment of the tribals of Jammu & Kashmir. However, TRIFED has taken an initiative for sourcing handicrafts from the tribal artisans of Ladakh. Accordingly, 4 artisans have been empanelled as suppliers for handicrafts from the region.

The details of developmental activities being undertaken by TRIFED for tribals, in various States during the current financial year,

which are at various stages of implementation, are as under:

i) Babasaheb Ambedkar Hasthshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) in the States of Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka and West Bengal

A handicraft development project in the tribal areas of 13 States was prepared and submitted to the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). The idea was to create self-sustaining handicraft clusters of tribals in those States so that the craft items made by them through the training and other inputs given by TRIFED and its associated organisations find their way to the market and thus the tribals get additional employment through the pursuit of art craft activity. Out of the above 13 States, 4 States namely, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka and West Bengal were approved for TRIFED`s intervention by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). TRIFED has completed the baseline survey for selection of handicraft artisans, mobilised them into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and opened the Bank Account of those SHGs. As a result 225 SHGs have been formed comprising 2756 tribal artisans in the aforesaid 4 States. The SHGs are doing thrift and credit practices and are b eing oriented with handicraft activity so that they can take it as their occupation. Now a proposal to undertake the second phase of intervention through the skill upgradation and design development of the crafts practised and pursued by the SHG members, has been submitted to the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) for approval.

ii) A demonstration project on development of Medicinal Herbs by way of Cultivation and Marketing of Safed Musli and Amla (as mixed cropping) at Jagdalpur has been put on ground under the financial assistance from National Medicinal Plant Board. A quantity of 20 Qtls. of Safed Musli was procured and sown in an area of 4 acres. An approximate yield of 100 Qtl. is expected from this cultivation. There has been regular activity of upkeep and growth monitoring of the cultivated crop through the TRIFED`s staff members posted at the site. The crop of Safed Musli has come up well and it would be ready for harvesting in February, 05. Some sample of this crop was displayed and demonstrated in Arogya Mela, New Delhi in 2004 during which it was accorded good response. This project will go a long way in imparting training to the tribals on cultivation, pre and post harvest management of the crop, processing and marketing and thus disseminating the same agricultural practices in adjoining tribal areas as also in other States with similar agro climatic conditions.

iii) Two tribal women SHGs of Narainpur District of Chhattisgarh were imparted training on making of Hill Broom from raw Hill Grass so that marketable quality of Hill Grass could be produced through attainment of required skill and competency by the tribal women. For this purpose a trainer from Delhi was deputed to Narainpur who imparted the training. As raw material, around 240 quintals Hill Grass was purchased from a tribal society of Abhujmarh area of Chhattisgarh. So far about 21000 brooms have been produced by the tribal women and the marketing of the same is being done by TRIFED.

iv) TRIFED started a project in collaboration with IIT, Kharagpur for income and employment generation of the tribals dwelling in forest and forest fringe areas through application of rural technology. Towards this end a non-electrical machine was developed by IIT, Kharagpur to make moulded plates and bowls (Dona - Pattal) from Sal, Siali and other such forest based leaves. These machines being run by Bio Mass fuel such as dried parts of plants twigs, leaves, fibres, etc. can be used by the tribals by staying at their own places of habitat where there is no electricity or irregular supply of electricity. TRIFED has got 213 tribals trained directly for operating these machines through the resource person of IIT and TRIFED in the State of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Further in the State of Jharkhand the operation of this machine has been demonstrated through Paryavaran Melas, exhibitions, etc. As many as 44 machines have been purchased by TRIFED and distributed to the tribals in the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Deployment of such machines in the North Eastern States, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is under active consideration.

V) A Vocational Training Center in the TRIFED`s Industrial Complex at Jagdalpur is under establishment wherein tribals of the country will be imparted training on scientific collection, pre and post harvest management, storage, packaging, value addition and marketing of Minor Forest Produce.

vi) A Duty Free Handicraft Shop in collaboration with ITDC and Office of Development Commissioner (Handicraft) has been established at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for promoting tribal art and craft to the upmarkets through domestic and international tourists.

vii) TRIBES Shop an exclusive outlet for tribal products is being run by TRIFED at 9, Mahadev Road, New Delhi for showcasing and market development of various art, crafts and natural/organic products made by the tribals of the country.

viii) TRIFED Research and Development Centre and Testing Laboratory is also being run from 9 & 10, Sikka Complex, Preet Vihar, Delhi which is engaged in testing of tribal products, development of their quality standardisation, storage norms, etc. Further R&D activities for exploring new uses of tribal products through laboratory experiments, applied/adaptive research and their applications are also being undertaken through this initiative. In order to meet the increasing need for improved testing methods and applications, the upgradation of R&D Centre is underway.

ix) TRIFED is in the process of publishing a Trade Directory of tribal products, their users, buyers, sellers, traders, processors, associated developmental agencies and related stakeholders in an effort to facilitate marketing development of tribal products. Towards this initiative, as many as 16000 addresses (approx.) have been collected from the States which are under the stage of compilation.

x) A website of TRIFED is under preparation for which financial assistance has been received from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for getting the same done through NICSI, Govt. of India.

xi) To supplement the efforts of the State level and primary level Tribal Development Cooperatives in successfully marketing their products such as Honey, shikakai, Soapnuts, Treemoss, Rampatra and other MFPs TRIFED has facilitated the pooling of the stakeholders, such as representative of LAMPS Federation, Government Departments, buyers, users and industry professionals

under a buyer seller meet. One such activity has been undertaken recently at Bangalore on 19.11.2004.

xii) To look after the health and nutritional aspect of tribals especially ladies and children, a project on production and distribution of energy/health food have been submitted for approval to the Ministry of Food Processing so that the issue of starvation death and malnutrition prevailing in tribal areas is addressed. Such projects are contemplated to be undertaken in the States of Jharkhand, Orissa, Maharashtra and Karnataka in the first phase